

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-16 are amended for clarity and consistency. The amendments are supported in the specification by at least paragraphs [0189], [0193] and [0254], and by Figs. 3A-3F, 16, and 17A-17C.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's acknowledgment of allowable subject matter in claims 8 and 9. Applicants also appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Faber and Hong at the June 1, 2006 personal interview. Applicants' record of the interview is incorporated into the following Remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; and rejects claims 1-3, 5-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. By this Amendment, claims 1-16 have been amended to address these rejections. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-6, 10 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over a 1999 document identified as "Microsoft Word 2000"; claims 2 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Microsoft Word 2000 in view of Simske (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0133560); claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Microsoft Word 2000 in view of Sieber (U.S. Patent No. 5,649,216); and claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Microsoft Word 2000 in view Simmons (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0003350). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Microsoft Word 2000 reference fails to disclose a computer-readable media involving a template production system having a template production function that produces a layout template combining a plurality of layout samples. The Microsoft Word 2000 reference discloses layout templates that each have a single layout sample, and thus fails to disclose a

layout template combining layout samples. At the interview, the Examiners agreed that the Microsoft Word 200 reference fails to disclose this feature.

The Microsoft Word 2000 reference also fails to disclose a computer-readable media involving a template production system having a layout template with a layout likelihood for an element-laying area that corresponds to a position of a layout element in the layout samples combined to produced the layout template. The Microsoft Word 2000 reference fails to disclose a layout template having a layout likelihood corresponding to a position of a layout element provided in a layout sample.

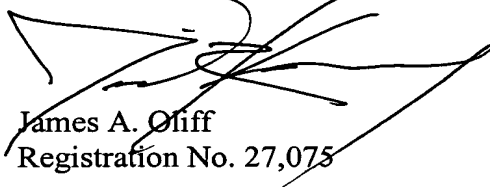
The secondary references fail to remedy the above-described deficiencies in the Microsoft Word 2000 reference.

Thus, the applied references, alone or in combination fail to disclose all of the features recited in the independent claims. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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